

Scope of Inquiry

The Vicinage Advisory Committee limits its scope to issues over which the Supreme Court and/or the Assignment Judge have administrative control.

If there are issues which you would like to bring to the Advisory Committee's attention or if you're interested in committee membership, please contact the Committee's vicinage staff liaison via email or by writing to the below address.

Mailing address:

The Superior Court of New Jersey
Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns
c/o of Sandra Rodriguez, Staff Liaison
1201 Bacharach Boulevard
Atlantic City, New Jersey, 08401
Phone: 609-594-3449

Email address: Sarah.Chavez1@judiciary.state.nj.us



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

ATLANTIC/CAPE MAY VICINAGE I

WANT TO BE HEARD?



BE A PART OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY CONCERNS

HON. JULIO L. MENDEZ,
ASSIGNMENT JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT

HOWARD H. BERCHTOLD, JR.,
TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR

SANDRA RODRIGUEZ, EEO/AA OFFICER

Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns
c/o of Sandra Rodriguez, Staff Liaison
The Superior Court of New Jersey 1201
Bacharach Boulevard
Atlantic City, New Jersey, 08401

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Background on the Vicinage I Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns

In 1992, the New Jersey Supreme Court appointed the Standing Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns and charged it with monitoring the implementation of the court approved recommendations of the Task Force on Minority Concerns. The Task Force submitted a report that included 62 recommendations, 53 of which were approved in some form for implementation. The Task Force was the first such group appointed by any court in the United States. Its existence and its pioneering work helped trigger what has become a nationwide movement to identify and eliminate discrimination against minorities in various aspects of the justice system. The Standing Committee is charged with the task of advising the Supreme Court on how the Judiciary may best assure fairness, impartiality, equal access and full participation of ethnic and racial minorities in the Judiciary.

To assist the Judiciary in implementing the Task Force recommendations and to assist the Standing Committee in its ongoing work in this area, the Court created Advisory Committees in each of the State's fifteen vicinages and at the State level. The Vicinage Committees work in collaboration with the Standing Supreme Court Committee and other Vicinage Advisory Committees, as set forth in the guidelines established by the Court.

The primary responsibility of a Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns is to advise the Assignment Judge by identifying the needs of the vicinage's minority community and community-at-large with respect to the 53 approved recommendations outlined in the Task Force Report, as well as other emergent issues.



Role of the Vicinage I Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns

The Vicinage I Advisory Committee advises the Assignment Judge and Trial Court Administrator on how the Judiciary may best assure fairness, impartiality, equal access and full participation. The committee also works to eliminate bias at all levels and in all functions and capacities in dispute resolution, support service, and court administration.

In order to carry out this mission, the Committee, under the immediate direction and coordination of the Committee Chair and the vicinage staff liaison undertakes the following:

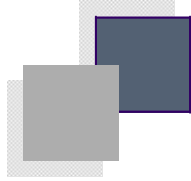
Advises the Assignment Judge and Trial Court Administrator by identifying specific needs within the vicinage;

Develops community education programs that address minority concerns issues;

Advises the Court on how the Judiciary, with respect to racial and ethnic minorities, may best assure fairness, impartiality, equal access, full participation and eliminate discrimination at all levels;

Proposes program initiatives to the Assignment Judge, and calls to the Assignment Judge's attention other areas of concern and issues which need the Courts attention; and

Conducts studies recommended by the Task Force and conducts other research as it and the Assignment Judge deem appropriate.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY CONCERNS

If you would like to become a member or want additional information about the Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, please complete and return this form:

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____
Organization: _____ Position: _____
Address: _____ Town: _____ Zip: _____

_____ I am interested in becoming an Advisory Committee member.

_____ I would like additional information: _____
(Please Specify)

_____ I would like the Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns to address the issue of : _____